

Sent via email to: minister.mnrf@ontario.ca

August 25, 2026

The Honourable Mike Harris
Minister of Natural Resources
438 University Avenue
18th Floor, Suite 1802
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Harris,

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) continues to support the provincial government's leadership in managing the impacts of economic uncertainty caused by ongoing trade negotiations. For example, the addition of tariffs on key exports like softwood lumber. Ongoing action to protect and diversify Ontario's economy and communities amid these global challenges will help ensure Ontario's communities remain competitive, resilient, and well positioned for long-term growth.

This work is especially important at a time when municipalities, local businesses, and industries across Ontario are managing significant economic pressures.

As the Province looks for opportunities to demonstrate its leadership in economic development policy and investments, we encourage you to harness the advice of industry associations and municipalities to find alignment on ideas that can benefit all Ontarians. For example, we are aware of advocacy endorsed by the Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) in support of the forestry industry and the Ontario Forest Industries Association.

The forestry industry is an illustrative example of how provincial action can make a significant difference for local economic opportunities. As you know, this sector alone provides over 154,000 jobs and contributes \$5.2 billion to Ontario's GDP. The forestry sector doesn't just support local employers, supply chains and families in communities in northern Ontario – it also supports manufacturing in southern Ontario, and housing construction across the province.

Commodity based industries like forestry and agriculture provide inputs to other adjacent industries including manufacturing, construction, and agri-business that turn these resources into value-added goods that Ontarians and export markets rely on. The production of these goods also enables shared provincial-municipal priorities like building more homes, growing a stable municipal tax base, and providing economic stability for local businesses and families in the face of global uncertainty.

Provincial policy and funding like the commitments in the *Roadmap to Protecting Ontario's Forest Sector* help create the conditions municipalities and industries need to

collaborate on investments. We know that NOMA and FONOM have made important recommendations on how the *Roadmap* could be enhanced and made more effective. These recommendations include improving forestry access roads to improve emergency response capacity, and reducing red tape to attract investment, create jobs, and support communities. We encourage you to continue working closely with NOMA and FONOM to explore how the roadmap's province-wide success and impact could be strengthened.

AMO supports the Province's leadership to create market readiness conditions for investments, job creation, local business and industry resilience. Once again, thank you, for the Ontario government's ongoing support of municipalities and our shared economic well-being. We welcome opportunities to continue working together to explore how municipalities can support the important work of protecting and growing Ontario's economic potential.

Sincerely,



Riley Brockington
AMO President
Councillor, City of Ottawa

cc: The Honourable George Pirie, Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth
The Honourable Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Kevin Holland, Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products
Rick Dumas, President, Northern Ontario Municipal Association
Dave Plourde, President, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
Drew Vanderduim, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Northern Economic Development and Growth